proportion of literates was 124 in 1000, against 88 in Baroda, 63 in Madras and 51 in Mysore.

In female education also Travancore maintains its preeminence, 31 females in 1000 being literate. In Bombay the proportion is 11, in Madras and Mysore 8.

Last year *i. e.* 1079 there were 3,727 institutions of all kinds with 1,97,385 scholars against 3,821 and 1,96,593 in 1078. The Government and aided schools have increased by 32, but private unaided schools have decreased by 126 which probably indicates that pial schools conducted by old Asans are gradually losing their ground and the people are realising the value of the training as imparted in Government and aided schools.

26. **Female Education.** The Normal School for Female Teachers, which was formerly attached to the Vernacular High School, was removed to the Girls' College and thrown open to all castes.

The total number of girls under instruction last year throughout the State was 46,332 which is 12·8 per cent of the school-going girl population.

27. **Primary Education.** You are already aware that the Government took an important step in regard to primary education during the year under consideration. The Government have accepted the responsibility of imparting primary education to all children in the State irrespective of caste or creed. As a first step towards the realisation of this responsibility the backward classes were taken in hand and Government have ruled that, in regard to schools in which the majority of scholars come from the specified classes, the entire cost of primary education should be borne by the State. Where there are no agencies existing for extending the benefit of education to these classes, Government propose to employ their own agency for the purpose. Steps also have been taken for training teachers for these backward class schools at the 4 principal centres of the State. The number of pupils last year receiving primary education was 183,328 against 1,77,691 in the previous year which is 47. 3 per cent of the population between the ages of 5 and 10.

28. **Backward Classes Schools.** In 1079 there were 480 schools against 471 in 1078. The scholars under instruction were 43,580 including those attending schools open to all classes, against 30,000 in the year previous.

29. **Technical Education.** The Industrial School of Arts at Trivandrum continues to train apprentices in several branches of industry such as pottery, ivory-carving, carpet-weaving, extraction of plantain fibre and smithery. In 1079 there were 15 apprentices.

The following Private Aided Technical schools were started during the past Malabar year and were given liberal grants under the rules published in 1077.

(1) Srimula Rama Varma Technical Institute at Nagercoil giving instruction in engineering, draftsman's work, surveying, maistries' work, carpentry, blacksmith's work, weaving, coir manufacture and commercial subjects.

(2) The Native Technical Institute at Trivandrum.

(3) The Weaving Institute at Attingal.

(4) Rama Varma Technical Institute at Changanacherry.

(5) Maniamkulam coir manufactory.

Technical Scholarships. Besides the 2 medical students there are 3 other students now in Europe in receipt of Government scholarships, 1 for Geology, 1 Mining and 1 Agricultural Chemistry. The services of these young men will be utilised by the State on their return.

30. **Agricultural Education.** An Agricultural Demonstration Farm is maintained by Government at Trivandrum, where indigenous crops are cultivated on improved and scientific methods and exotics are introduced for purposes of trial. Plants, cuttings and seeds are supplied to cultivators who may wish to try the growing of exotics.

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It is in contemplation to extend the sphere of usefulness of this institution by making it the training ground for teachers who after they have had a good grounding in the theory and practice of agriculture will be sent out to teach the subject in the primary schools.

31. **The Maharajah's College and High School.** Students are prepared for the B. A. Degree, the optional subjects taught being Mathematics, Advanced Chemistry, Philosophy and History. 420 graduates have passed out from the College.

Last year's B. A. results were as follows :—

	Appeared.	Passed.
English Branch	35	25
Second Language	38	31
Optional	38	24

The expenditure in the College Department exceeded the fee income by Rs. 41,917. In the High School Department the fee income exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 2,463.

32. **Special Education. The Law College.** Till 1894 there was a Law Class attached to the Arts College. In that year a separate Law College was established. It prepares students for the local Pleadership Examination and for the F. L. and B. L. Examinations of the Madras University.

Last year, the strength of the College fell from 149 to 120. 31 students appeared for the B. L Degree Examination of whom 6 passed, 34 for the F. L. of whom 12 passed and 47 for the Pleadership Examination of whom 27 passed.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 18,934 and the fee income was Rs. 9,616 thus entailing a net cost to Government of Rs. 9,318. Government have during the year made the College a self-supporting one by reducing the honorariums paid to lecturers and by slightly raising the fees.

The Sanscrit College. This was opened in 1889 with 150 pupils. Last year the strength was 180. Three examinations the Sastri, Upadhyaya and Mahopadhyaya are annually held. The cost to Government in 1079 was Rs. 8,833.

The Reformatory was established in 1894. There were 10 inmate last year. The cost to Government was Rs. 2,411. The Superintendent's pay alone amounted to Rs. 1,200 a year. It was found possible to provide a less costly establishment to supervise this institution.

33. **State Life Insurance.** The scheme came into force in the beginning of 1898. The business was until last year conducted by a Committee consisting of the Durbar Physician as ex-officio President and 4 members, with a Secretary.

The Committee was abolished in the middle of last year and the working of the scheme was transferred to the Huzur and placed under the Chief Secretary, assisted by one of his Assistants.

The revival of the Committee is under consideration, as it is not desirable to burden the Secretariat with this work.

34. **Mining.** There has been no Geological Survey of the State. Government have sent to England a Graduate in Arts to study Mining. The only minerals worked now are plumbago and mica. In 1079 there were 3 mines working in plumbago. The Sircar realised by way of royalty and export duty on plumbago a sum of Rs. 8,750. The royalty is 4 Rs. and 6 Rs. per ton according to the quality of the plumbago mined. Mica was very scarce and the income to the Sirkar was only Rs. 30-13-6.

35. **Finance.** You may be aware that with a view to improve the system of Finance and Accounts a Committee had been appointed some three years ago. The Committee had made considerable progress in the drafting of a Code, but His Highness felt that it would take a long time for the Code to be finally adopted and

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